REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are pending in the subject application. Claims 1-3 have been amended by the present amendment. The amendments are fully supported by the application as originally filed.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3 were objected to because of certain informalities. Claims 1-3 have been amended to delete the phrase "characterized by," as recommended by the Examiner. Claims 1-3 also have been amended to delete the phrase "and which indicates the communication state between the terminals at the present viewed from the corresponding terminal from the designated terminal," which was indicated to be confusing by the Examiner.

As amended, claims 1-3 clearly define elements that are present in each of the terminals connected via the radio network. For example, claims 1-3 clearly distinguish between "for its own terminal" and "not for its own terminal," so it is clear that at least two terminals are connected via the radio network. Moreover, claim 2 recites that one of the terminals is set in a master mode, and other terminals are sequentially designated in a slave mode.

Regarding claim 3, the step of "receiving the request of the topology map data" has been added, as recommended in the Office Action. It is believed that the amendments to claims 1-3 overcome the claim objections.

Applicant's claimed invention is directed to a radio communication apparatus and method in which a terminal (e.g., set in a master mode) sequentially designates terminals (e.g., set in a slave mode) which are registered in a constituent terminal list, and transmits a request for topology map data, as recited in claims 1-3. The designated terminal, upon receiving the topology map data request, decides whether the request is for its own terminal and, if so, transmits the topology map data viewed from its own terminal (see claims 1-3). Further, each of the undesignated terminals ("when the request of the topology map data is not for its own terminal") receives topology map data from another terminal and stores the designated terminal

as a terminal to which it can be connected, thereby updating the "communication state between the terminals" as claimed.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,590,928 to Haartsen. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Haartsen does not teach or suggest a radio communication apparatus or method in which "when the request of the topology map data is not for its own terminal, receiving topology map data transmitted from another terminal..."

Referring to FIG. 12 of Haartsen and accompanying text in the specification, as cited in the Office Action, a master unit 1201 in Haartsen includes an inquiry means 1209 for sending out inquiry messages and collecting the responses, i.e., address and topology information 1211 (see column 20, lines 1-7). A slave unit 1203 includes an inquiry response means 1217 for generating and transmitting a response back to the master unit 1201 (see column 20, lines 11-15).

However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Haartsen that the master/slave units can decide whether a request for topology map data "is for its own terminal or not," and then either transmit the topology map data from its own terminal or receive topology map data from another terminal.

In Haartsen, the inquiry response means 1217 in the slave unit 1203 simply generates and transmits a response back to the master unit 1201 upon receiving an inquiry. In other words, the inquiry response means 1217 does not make any decision regarding the inquiry/request, and also does not receive topology map data from any other unit.

For at least the reasons discussed above, the Haartsen reference does not anticipate or otherwise render obvious the Applicant's claimed invention.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____

Steven M. Jensen
(Reg. No. 42,693)

Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge
P.O. Box 55874
Boston, MA 02205

Phone: (617) 439-4444

Customer No. 21874